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EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles for Children and Young People

- Ad 4-6 Abell, Elizabeth, ed. The First Book of Fairy Tales; pictures by Gioia Fiammenghi. Watts, 1958. 118p. \$1.95.

A collection of ten well-known fairy tales, retold in an acceptable, although not particularly outstanding, style. Contents include: "Beauty and the Beast," "The Elves and the Shoemaker," "Cinderella," "Puss-in-Boots," "The Boy Who Went to the North Wind," "Rapunzel," "Little Half-Chick," "The Miller's Boy and the Cat," "The Princess and the Pea," "The Fisherman and His Wife." The format is attractive and the book will have value where an additional, inexpensive collection of these tales is needed.

- R 7-9 Allan, Mabel Esther. Swiss Holiday. Vanguard, 1958. 222p. \$3.

A teenage novel successfully presented in the first person. Phillipa, who is planning to get a job in the summer before college, is invited by her aunt to spend the summer in Switzerland helping to care for her younger cousins. Phillipa is stable and intelligent; her relationships with some of the members of her family

are described with sharp perception. Especially moving is the portrayal of her younger cousin Tilda, who has been eclipsed all her life by a beautiful older sister. The modest plot is convincingly compounded of natural incidents which are well-related to the attitudes of the characters. Without moralizing, the author illustrates the possibility of effecting a change in others by one's own behavior.

- NR 5-7 Anderson, Clarence William. Afraid to Ride. Macmillan, 1957. 89p. \$2.75.
Judy has been thrown by a horse and is afraid to ride again. Fair Lady (a horse) has been mistreated and is afraid of people. A stable owner persuades Judy to take Fair Lady home (she has a box-stall conveniently unoccupied) for re-training. Horse and girl emerge as champions, with new courage, self-confidence, and a cup. All problems are solved. The author-illustrator draws well, but his depiction of an adolescent girl as being absorbed in riding to the exclusion of all else is not convincing. Conversation is stilted and frequently saccharine.

- Ad 3-5 Atkins, Elizabeth Howard. Treasures of the Medranos; with illus. by Peggy Bach. Parnassus, 1957. 112p. \$2.95.

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The heirloom jewelry of the Medranos family is carefully packed for the trip to Santa Barbara, where Isabella Medranos is to be married. To her younger sister, Felisa, almost as precious is the casket given her by Isabella's betrothed: it holds a beautiful doll and wardrobe. The famous bandit, El Senor Carlos, waylays the train and steals the wrong treasure. Felisa is disconsolate until a mysterious stranger dances with her at the wedding, after which her doll is returned. A pleasant story of the mission period in California, attractively illustrated. The original version appeared in St. Nicholas magazine as "The Treasure Chest of the Medranos."

NR Austin, Margot. Archie Angel. Dutton, 3-5 1957. 45p. \$2.50.
yrs.

Coy story of an angel who would not wash and who was sent to live among the chickens. He soon repented and was allowed to return home, a model of good behavior thereafter. A trite theme that has no originality to the telling or the pictures.

R Baer, Howard. Now This, Now That; K-1 Playing with Points of View. Holiday House, 1957. 30p. \$2.25.

A picture book designed to help the young child develop understanding of perspective. Familiar experiences, such as looking at small things from above or from their own level (ants, cats, etc.); watching a train from far off and near at hand; looking at a reflection in the water and then at the thing itself, all serve to show that everything can change depending on your point of view. The hand-lettered text, in large capital letters, looks easy but would have to be read aloud to most primary grade children.

Ad Bendick, Jeanne. The Blonk from Beneath the Sea. Watts, 1958. 55p. \$2.50.

Fanciful tale of a small boy who makes friends with a fabulous creature that is captured by a sea explorer ship from the Institute of Oceanography. The "Blonk," as it is nicknamed, is supposed to be the only known example of a fish with intelligence, and it becomes quite unhappy at being kept in captivity. However, when the boy tries to free it, it reconsiders and decides it wants to live with people. The story is too complex and the style of writing too difficult for the age reader who would be attracted by the picture book format, but there is considerable humor for older readers who may not be deterred by the format.

R Boardman, Fon W. Castles. Oxford, 6-8 1957. 104p. \$3.25.

A comprehensive treatment of the topic, containing many photographs of famous castles, glossary, index, and diagrams of castle construction and of siege weapons. The author describes the feudal system, the need for castles and their role in the culture; he concludes with a brief examination of the changes in society which made the castle obsolete. Detailed histories of some of the famous English and European castles make vivid the relation between the castle and the feudal life. The inking is uneven in a few places in the review copy.

Ad Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. Exploring 7-12 by Satellite; The Story of Project Vanguard; illus. by Helmut K. Wimmer. Crowell, 1957. 42p. \$3.

Although some of the text has been outdated by sputnik, there is still considerable useful information here about the problems involved in launching a space satellite and some of the kinds of information that can be gleaned about outer space. One diagram is misleading, but in general, the illustrations help in understanding the text.


Ad Breetveld, Jim. Getting to Know Alaska; 4-6 illus. by Don Lambo. Coward-McCann, 1958. 64p. \$2.50.

An over-view of Alaska that touches briefly on its history, physical geography and present day problems. There is considerable over-simplification of facts and situations, and frequently statements are made that require further explanation to be truly meaningful for young readers. For example, the statement is made that "though Alaska is farther north than many parts of the United States where harbors freeze in winter, many southern Alaskan ports are open all year," but no indication is given as to why this is so. The book will serve as an introduction to Alaska but other materials will be needed to supplement it for a full acquaintance with the area.

R Buchheimer, Naomi. Let's Go to the Library; pictures by Vee Guthrie. Putnam, 1957. 48p. \$1.95.

A clear and quite comprehensive explanation of library service. There are simple descriptions of library systems and of the work of the librarian, explanations of shelf arrangements and classification in understandable terms, and an introduction into the mysteries of catalogs and circulation procedures. The book will need directive use by parent or teacher in most cases. The illustrations are often confusing because designs in color are superimposed on black and white drawings, though some are decorative and explanatory.

Ad Buehr, Walter. Knights and Castles and

4-6  **Feudal Life.** Putnam, 1957. 72p. \$2.50.

The black and white illustrations are outstanding; the text does not achieve the same level. The feudal system is explained and details of feudal life described. Special attention is devoted to castles—their architecture and their use in time of war—and to the techniques and weapons of medieval war. The text and illustrations are occasionally so far separated as to make the latter useless. In addition, the index does not list all the feudal terms used; these flaws impair the usefulness of the book, although it is a well-written and comprehensive picture of feudal society.

R **Bulla, Clyde Robert.** Ghost Town Treasure; illus. by Don Freeman. Crowell, 1958. 87p. \$2.50.

The Jacksons were the only family left in the ghost town of Gold Rock; young Ty was very upset when his parents announced that they could no longer make a living there and were going to move to the city. When Ty heard that his pen pals, Nora and Paul Connor, whose grandfather had helped found Gold Rock, were coming, he convinced his parents to stay long enough for the visit to take place. In an old diary, the three children read about a gold mine; their explorations divulged a beautiful natural cave. Visitors came to see the cave, business began to flow back to Gold Rock, and the Jackson family decided to stay in their home.

Ad **Burack, Abraham Solomon, ed.** Four-Star Plays for Boys. Plays, Inc., 1957. 237p. \$3.50.

Fifteen one-act plays: five for lower grades, five for junior high, five for senior high. They are royalty-free, fairly easy to stage, and production notes at the back of the book include playing time and suggestions for costumes. The plays themselves are mediocre, but may be useful to supplement the small repertoire of existing plays for all-boy casts.

R **Burnett, Constance Buel.** Let the Best Boat Win; The Story of America's Greatest Yacht Designer; illus. by John O'Hara Cosgrave. Houghton, 1957. 266p. \$3.50.

Although essentially the biography of Nathanael Greene Herreshoff, this is also the story of a courageous family and of the golden days of sailing yachts in this country. Four of the Herreshoff children became blind in childhood but all four made rich, full lives for themselves in a period when blindness was generally considered an overwhelmingly hopeless handicap. Nat Herreshoff made possible a part of his older

brother John's success by giving up a promising career as a naval engineer to work with his blind brother in developing the Herreshoff boat works. There his genius as a designer brought the company fame and prosperity as the Herreshoff yachts consistently captured sailing prizes in this country and abroad. The account, covering the period from 1848 to 1938, will be enjoyed as much for its history of small boat development as for its interest as a mature, penetrating character study.

M **Caldwell, Erskine.** Molly Cottontail; 2-4 with illus. by William Sharp. Little, 1958. 32p. \$2.50.

Fairly routine story of a small boy who did not like to kill animals, but whose aunt kept trying to persuade him that he would never be a "real Southern gentleman" until he learned to hunt. One day he did try to kill a rabbit, but captured it and made a pet of it instead, much to his father's pleasure. The writing is in no way comparable to the author's adult writings, being quite stilted and lifeless, and with none of the vivid characterization and description of which Caldwell is capable. The book appeared first in an early collection of short stories entitled American Earth and has been rewritten for young readers.

M **Caldwell, John Cope.** Let's Visit the Middle East. Day, 1958. 96p. \$2.95. Defining the Middle East as comprised of the countries of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Aden and the Sheikdoms, Iraq, and Iran, the author proceeds to discuss briefly the current problems that make this area one of the dangerous trouble spots of the world. There is considerable interesting material here, although its effectiveness is weakened by the jerky style of writing that results from the over-use of short, choppy sentences. The frequent over-simplifications will require a fairly good background of information about the countries and the situations there for complete understanding.

NR **Campbell, Wanda Jay.** The Museum Mystery; 7-9 illus. by Charles Geer. Dutton, 1957. 191p. \$2.75.

Lance Michelson was disappointed when his plans for a summer job as lifeguard were ended by his father's decision to accept a commission to paint some murals at a small college in the Texas Panhandle. However, the prospects became brighter when he met Robin Haynes, daughter of an archaeologist, and Pepe Mendoz, a Mexican boy, and the three became involved in a mystery at the college museum and in nearby Palo Duro canyon. In due time and after much sleuthing, they solved

the mystery and found enough treasure to assure a friendly young archeologist of a chance to finish his degree. In the course of events the young people and the two archeologists are guilty of tying an old Mexican woman to a tree and leaving her there overnight for no better reason than that they suspect her of snooping around their camp. A poorly developed mystery, with weak characterizations.

- R Capon, Naomi. Dancers of Tomorrow;
5-8 The Story of a Girl's Training at the
Royal Ballet School. Harcourt, 1957.
93p. \$3.

An account of the training program at the Royal Ballet School (formerly Sadler's Wells), written by the producer of the B.B.C. television ballet program. The author has interwoven information and fiction with great skill: the story of Ann Blake's training is absorbing reading, but it could be the story of any student. From the first examination of a group of aspirants, through the years of hard work in dancing, theater arts and academic subjects, there emerges an impressive picture of preparation for a career as exacting as it is exciting. The many photographs taken at the School are illuminating and illustrative.

- Ad Carlson, Natalie (Savage). Hortense, the
2-4 Cow for a Queen; illus. by Nicholas.
Harcourt, 1957. 95p. \$2.75.

Amusing tale of a French cow, living near Versailles during the time of Marie Antoinette, who sets forth to find her calf. Her adventures take her aboard a pirate ship, through the Sahara Desert, and finally back to the Little Trianon, where her calf had been all the time. Somewhat sophisticated humor and some of the background may be lost on younger children, but the incongruity of the situation should be enjoyed if read aloud.

- NR Carter, Bruce. Target Island; pictures
6-8 by Charles W. Walker. Harper, 1957.
218p. \$2.50.

Three children, two brothers and the girl next door, the oldest of whom is thirteen, run away from their London homes where the girl is miserable over having to live with a miserly uncle. They steal a yacht belonging to another uncle of the girl, Matty, and set sail for America where children are allowed to do as they please. They get as far as the island of Murra off the coast of Scotland where they are shipwrecked during a storm. The island has recently been abandoned in anticipation of its use as a target for some new navy and air force weapons, but one man has remained behind in defiance of the government's orders. He and the children

manage to survive the first bombardment and then one of the boys signals the ships that are firing on the island to let them know it is inhabited. The boys are rescued, pressure is brought to bear on the government to allow the people of Murra to return home, and the stolen yacht is set sail to make everyone believe that Matty was lost at sea, although she really has remained in hiding on the island. Not only is the story melodramatic and highly improbable, but most of the actions of the children throughout are objectionable, and frequently illegal.

- NR Chandler, Ruth Forbes. The Happy Answer;
6-8 illus. by Joy Troth. Abelard-Schuman,
1957. 206p. \$2.50.

A story that has all too obviously been contrived to show the different kinds of foster homes in which children are placed. Eleven-year-old Dawne has lived a neat and tidy, and happy life with Aunty Shaw for as long as she can remember. When she is transferred to the happy-go-lucky household of Bunny and Hunkey, she is momentarily shocked but quickly recovers and learns that there is not necessarily one right and one wrong way to keep house. Then she progresses to the home of wealthy Mrs. Seaver, but this is an unhappy experience, so she runs away, returning to Aunty Shaw where a beloved ex-social worker, recently married, providentially appears and announces plans to adopt her. All of the children, and especially Dawne, are unrealistic in their emotional reactions, and the book gives a wholly distorted picture of child welfare work.

- Ad Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Soil Savers; The
5-7 Work of the Soil Conservation Service
of the United States Department of
Agriculture. Coward-McCann, 1957.
48p. illus. \$2.

Photographs and brief text introduce the reader to some of the problems of soil conservation that are found in this country. Good and bad land use are described and pictured, with some discussion of what can be done to redeem waste land and to prevent further destruction. Not as complete as the Bronson or Fenton books on the same subject but useful as an introduction to conservation.

- R Craz, Albert. Getting to Know Liberia;
4-6 illus. by Don Lambo. Coward-McCann,
1958. 64p. \$2.50.

A brief introduction to Liberia, giving something of its historical background and of the two types of culture to be found there—the primitive culture of the natives and the more modern culture of the Negro colonists who went back to Africa after having lived, frequently as slaves, in this country.

The material is objectively and interestingly presented and should give readers an understanding of the country and of some of the problems it is facing today.

- R 5-7 Crist, Eda (Szecakay) and Richard. The Secret of Turkeyfoot Mountain. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 204p. \$2.75.

Ron and Alex, who live in a Pennsylvania-Dutch farm community, hear that a valuable medicinal root can be found in the Big Swamp nearby. Eager to earn money, the boys decide to explore the swamp, although local legends declare the area to be mysteriously dangerous. Ron finds an abandoned cabin that has a clue to a long-lost store of the root, but that seems to be inhabited by a ghost. The boys succeed in their quest after some frightening experiences. The atmosphere of brooding mystery is well sustained and the explanations of weird phenomena are satisfyingly logical. Descriptions of swamp vegetation and animals are interesting; a few descriptive passages are remarkably vivid.

- R 5-7 Dale, Norman. The Secret Motorcar; pictures by Edward Shenton. Harper, 1957. 186p. \$2.75.

Five English children living on farms near Salbridge become involved in a double mystery when they find an old car hidden away in an abandoned barn on the farm where two of the children live. They decide to renovate the car and sell it so the parents of the two children can get away from the miserly grandfather who owns the farm. The second mystery involves a man who is trying to swindle the grandfather out of his money. Both affairs are settled with a minimum of coincidence and a reasonable amount of adult help.

- R 4-6 De Leeuw, Adèle Louise and Cateau. The Caboose Club; illus. by Don Sibley. Little, 1957. 150p. \$3.

Bob Brown becomes interested in model railroads when he gets a do-it-yourself kit for Christmas. As one boy after another sees Bob's caboose, enthusiasm spreads, and the boys decide to form a group called the Caboose Club. Determination and cooperation are really tested as the boys work to earn money for their project and try to distribute jobs and responsibilities. The club gets an old caboose to use for a clubhouse; when it is wrecked, the wrong boy is accused and exonerated in the nick of time by (of all things) a girl. A good story of group activity and agemate relationships.

- Ad De Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. Cats Cats

- K-3 Cats Cats Cats; drawings and design by Bill Sokol. Pantheon, 1958. 32p. \$2.95.

Cat lovers of all ages will enjoy this collection of cats of all breeds. The brief text rhythmically and humorously points up some of the characteristics of cats (their tendency always to be in or under something); their uses (to help you tie shoelaces); what can be learned from cats (their need to keep their claws in good condition); and what their various expressions mean. There is an occasionally coy note injected (the "Poem" by a cat) and some portions of the text are too subtle and sophisticated for the small child, but on the whole this is a book to delight all cat lovers.

- NR 3-5 Dudley, Nancy. Linda Goes on a Cruise; pictures by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1958. 58p. \$2.50.

The ubiquitous Linda, having recovered from flu, is off on an eight day cruise with a neighbor and the neighbor's son, also recently recovered from flu. The two children explore the boat thoroughly and make friends with a mysterious young boy who turns out to be an Oriental prince, complete with turban, dagger and jewels, and also recovering from the flu. What few story elements there are are too contrived to have interest and the whole tone of the writing in so far as it relates to the prince, is highly objectionable. At its worst point, Ricky remarks, on being told the prince's name, "Hunh? . . . What kind of a name is that? We'll call you Sam."

- M 7-9 Du Jardin, Rosamond (Neal). Senior Prom. Lippincott, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Marcy Rhodes, in her senior year in high school, learns that one can drift from romantic interest to friendship with no regrets. She chooses as her escort for the senior prom gentle and understanding Rick rather than glamorous Bruce. When the senior class goes on a trip, there is a certain amount of drinking about which no disapprobation is expressed. Although it is customary to stay out all night after the senior prom, Rick and Marcy decide that this is unwise. The impact of this decision is somewhat marred for the reader when a rather contrived accident puts Bruce and his date (who have stayed out all night) in the hospital.

- R K-2 Eberle, Irmengarde. Robins on the Window Sill; photographs by Myron E. Scott. Crowell, 1958. 43p. \$2.75.

Two robins have chosen a window sill on which to build their new home. Here the nest is made and the eggs laid; here the baby robins are hatched and fed. The window belongs to a photographer, and the result of his recording of the nesting cycle is a delightful and graphic story. Large

print and over thirty large photographs make a good first book on birds for reading aloud and classroom use.

R Fatio, Louise. A Doll for Marie; pictures by Roger Duvoisin. Whittlesey House, 1957. 24p. \$2.50.

Little Marie loved the old doll in the window of the antique shop and hoped no other little girl would buy it; the doll was lonely and wished she had a little girl to play with her. One day an old lady bought the doll, but her cat and dog knocked it about and ran out of the house with it. Torn and dirty, the doll lay in the street until Marie found it. She took it home and both doll and girl were happy to be together. A simple and appealing story, good for reading aloud. In a back pocket, a doll-size duplicate of the book is included.

NR Fenton, Edward. The Golden Doors; illus. by Gioia Fiammenghi. Doubleday, 1957. 262p. \$2.95.

Wayne and Alida Carpenter have come to Florence with their parents, John Carpenter and Diantha Snow, famous director and movie star, who are making a film. The children, left to their own devices, make friends with an orphaned Italian boy, Bruno Torelli, who, in a few weeks time, teaches them such perfect and fluent Tuscan Italian that the police refuse to believe they are Americans. They also become involved in the tracking down of a gang who are smuggling art treasures out of Italy. In the course of their sleuthing they defy their parents, steal a motor scooter, which they then abandon in another city, and get money for their journey back to Florence by begging—for all of which they are praised because it was done in the interest of solving a crime. All that is left for the police is to apprehend the criminals. Bruno's long discourses on Florentine history and art, usually delivered in fluent Italian but translated by the author into broken English, will detract from any appeal the story might have had.

Ad Ferris, Helen Josephine, ed. Girls, Girls, Girls; Stories of Love, Courage and the Quest for Happiness. Watts, 1957. 241p. (Terrific Triple Title Series). \$3.

An uneven collection of short stories, many of which are written to standard formulas. Some of the stories are good but most of these are available elsewhere. Many of the stories have been published in magazines such as "Seventeen," "Collier's," and "The Saturday Evening Post."

M Flora, James. The Day the Cow Sneezed.

K-2 Harcourt, 1957. 42p. \$2.95.

Exciting things happened the day Fletcher let the cow get chilled and she took cold. Her sneeze started a chain of events that began on the farm with the cat riding the goat's back, and ended at the ocean with fireworks, a Ferris wheel, Fletcher and assorted animals. There is humor to some of the illustrations, although many of the pages seem excessively cluttered and the text plods along and never achieves quite the same sparkle as the pictures.

R George, Jean (Craighead). Snow Tracks. 2-4 Dutton, 1958. 61p. \$2.50.

Animal tracks in the snow can tell an interesting story for anyone who knows how to interpret them. The author has taken a few typical tracks and let them tell their own tales of what happened to the white-footed mouse, the weasel, the skunk, the fox, and the boy, all of whom ventured out on a day following a fresh fall of snow. The style, having the tracks seem to speak, may prove slightly confusing to young readers at first, but the exceedingly clear drawings and the unfolding of the forest drama will capture and hold the reader's interest.

NR Goulden, Shirley, ed. Tales from the Arabian Nights; illus. by Benvenuti. Grosset, 1957. 60p. \$2.95.

Three well-known stories re-told from the Arabian Nights. The style of writing is pedestrian and the author intrudes too many morals into her retellings. In at least one instance the arrangement of the text on the page is quite confusing.

NR Grattan, Madeleine. Jexium Island; tr. from the French by Peter Grattan; drawings by William Pène Du Bois. Viking, 1957. 184p. \$2.75.

Jexium is a powder used in the release of atomic energy; to capture the world's supply, a master criminal has children kidnapped and brought to a small island, Jexium Island, lost in the coastal fogs near Newfoundland. An unscrupulous doctor (in a manner never explained) induces loss of memory in the children, who are then kept as slave prisoners who collect jexium. One boy arrives secretly in search of his lost foster-sister. Serge is a French lad of thirteen; under the guidance of the heroic Cyril, an escaped prisoner, and with the help of the French Navy, Serge frees not only his sister, but all the children. The doctor is caught and the wicked guards overpowered. A slight hint is given at the end that there will be other books about the enigmatic hero, Cyril. The story, written for a French audience, depicts children who are improbably sophisticated, but it moves at a good pace and in spirited writing. There is an undoubted appeal

in the picture of an isolated all-child community, lost to the world and self-sufficient, but the cruelty displayed by most of the adults is rather exaggerated.

M Griffith, Fay. Hidalgo and the Gringo
3-5 Train; illus. by Kelly Oechsli.
illus. by Kelly Oechsli. Dutton,
1958. 89p. \$2.75.

Nine-year-old Hidalgo Andres loves to leave the farm chores to watch the Southern Pacific train go by. One day the boy finds a rock pile in the tunnel; he flags the train and prevents an accident. The passengers give him money and the friar who has been teaching him to read surprises Hidalgo by taking him to a celebration where the governor praises him. The theme of the book is Hidalgo's desire to read; spurred by a book that has been thrown from the Gringo Train, he starts in January and by August has learned to read in Spanish (chiefly by his own efforts) and is starting English.

NR Guillot, Renè. A Boy and Five Huskies;
7-9 illus. by Ralph Thompson. Pantheon,
1957. 185p. \$3.

Eric Chavegrand, living in an isolated camp on the edge of Canada's Far North, has built a case of hero worship around his Uncle Como, a Robin Hood figure who defies the law to bring his own brand of justice to the white men who are victimizing the Eskimos and Indians. The story involves one episode in which Eric helps his uncle escape from the Mounties, and himself sets forth alone to deliver a packet of diamonds to an Eskimo tribe from which they had been swindled. The story makes tense, exciting reading. Some readers will question the author's knowledge of huskies when he has one barking. Since huskies howl rather than bark. The really serious weakness of the book, however, lies in the author's attitude that it is all right for a man to take the law into his own hands and even to force a Mountie to let a criminal go just because he feels confident of his own ability to frighten the man into leading an honest life. The book also suffers from a condescending attitude toward Eskimos and Indians.

M Hamil, Tom. Brother Alonzo. Macmillan,
K-1 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

Picture-story book about a monk who attempts several ambitious projects as a means of worship. Each one fails but not until it has enabled the monk to be of service to some child or animal. At the end the owl shows the monk that his services have been of more real value than his elaborate plans. A variation on the "Juggler of Notre Dame" theme, but lacking the dignity

of that story. The illustrations are almost of comic book caliber.

Ad Hill, Lorna. Masquerade at the Ballet;
6-8 illus. by Oscar Liebman. Holt, 1957.
224p. \$3.

Jane Foster is discontented with the horsey life at her country home in Northumberland, while her cousin Mariella is unhappy at ballet school in London. Circumstances make it possible for Jane to substitute for Mariella at an audition for admission to the Sadler's Wells School, and she is accepted. In a few weeks the deception is discovered, but Jane and Mariella are allowed to exchange places permanently—Jane staying in London with her aunt and uncle and Mariella going to Jane's parents in the country. The story is written in a lively style and will be enjoyed by ballet fans, although there is not much substance to it. The rather fantastic plot is handled in a realistic enough way to be believable. The actions and conversations of the two girls do not always seem consistent with their ages.

Ad Hobart, Lois. Strangers Among Us. Funk
8-10 and Wagnalls, 1957. 246p. \$2.95.
Alison, a high school senior, is ostracized by her friends when she champions an aggressive newcomer, Esther Leopold. After graduation, Alison spends much of her time with the Leopold family; she falls in love with Esther's older brother Mark. Both young people realize that the differences in their background will create problems; when Alison's father has a heart attack, trouble brings the two closer and they decide that they do have the courage and patience to solve any problems that lie ahead. Several aspects of the plot are artificial: Alison's father is saved by Mark's father who just happens to be a heart specialist. Alison's mother discloses the existence of another child who died of polio. A scientist's visit is the occasion for a discourse on prejudice. The author gives a creditable indictment of making generalizations as well as of prejudice, but none of the characters express anti-semitism, although this is the real issue of the book. The tepid reception given the Leopolds is presented as small town reserve toward newcomers; the antagonism toward Esther is provoked only by her behavior; Alison and Mark are in conflict because of their respective small town and urban attitudes.

NR Hogan, Inez. The Big Ones. Dutton, 1957.
2-4 33p. \$2.95.

Escorted by a chimpanzee, a dinosaur who has come to earth today examines the animals of our time. Each animal he sees reminds the dinosaur of a monster he has known in the past. The text is often coy in the attempt to introduce per-

sonality or action in what might better be straight informational material. Pages are not numbered; there is no index; there is no arrangement by alphabet, chronology or biological relationship. A more useful book for this purpose is Clark's The True Book of Dinosaurs (Childrens Press, 1955).

R Huntington, Harriet E. Praying Mantis.
2-4 Doubleday, 1957. 45p. \$2.

In fairly easy text and full-page photographs, the author presents the life-cycle of a praying mantis. There is also information about keeping these insects as pets, to watch the life process from hatching to maturity. A useful volume for nature study or hobby collections. One page-reference is inaccurate.

Ad Ipcar, Dahlov (Zorach.) Ten Big Farms.
1-3 Knopf, 1958. 34p. \$2.50.

The Jordan family wanted to live on a farm, but didn't know what kind, so they took a trip across county to see farms, finally deciding on a small general farm rather than one of the specialized ones they had seen: A few lines of text accompany each double spread illustration; described are a poultry farm, a fruit farm, a horse farm, a tobacco farm, a cattle farm, a pig farm, a wheat farm, a dairy farm, a sheep farm, and a truck farm. The illustrations are informative but are crowded with details not explained by the text, which might lead to some confusion for the reader. Some text is on colored background and difficult to read.

R Johnstone, Kathleen Yerger. Sea Treasure;
7-12 A Guide to Shell Collecting; illus. by
 Rudolf Freund and René Martin.
 Houghton, 1957. 242p. \$4.

An excellent book on shells for the beginning student or collector. Illustrations are clear and colored plates helpful for identification. General information on classification and morphology is followed by instructions on where, when, and how to collect shells. Chapters on rare shells, shells in art, and in history, follow chapters on storing, exhibiting, and buying shells. A bibliography and a list of museums are appended. The author treats both the subject and the reader with respect; her interest is lively and contagious.

R Jupo, Frank. Read All about It!; The
4-6 Story of News through the Ages.
 Prentice-Hall, 1957. 64p. \$2.95.

A brief history of those media of communication through which men have told the news, from rock arrangements and cave pictures to artificial earth satellites. Pictures in green, black and white are both decorative and informative.

The author makes clear the relative importance of the various media as they evolved and gives to the reader a sense of the increasing acceleration of the diffusion of knowledge. The style is not easy; the book may be most useful as an introduction to the subject in a classroom presentation.

NR Keene, Carolyn. The Haunted Showboat.
5-7 Grosset, 1958. 184p. \$1.

A book that is replete with shoddy values and bad writing. Nancy Drew—brilliant, attractive, wealthy, etc., etc.—solves another mystery. Set in the South, the atmosphere drips old southern moss, voodoo, fancy-dress balls, convertibles, and a lost treasure. It is appalling to see in print servile Negro characters called "Uncle" and "Mammy" who speak in dialect; the white southerners do not.

M King, D. R. Spitzee Anota. Longmans,
7-9 1957. 252p. \$4.

In this sequel to Sukanabi, Ted Macdonnell returns to Edmonton for a reunion with his parents and then goes back to the Spitzee Anota valley where he runs a predictable gamut of experiences and hair-breadth escapes involving Indians, both friendly and enemy, whiskey peddlers, and prairie fire. The writing is of average quality and the appeal of the book will be further lessened by the very poor paper and inking which frequently make for difficult reading.

M Kohler, Julilly House, Razzberry Jambo-
6-8 ree; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Crowell,
 1957. 180p. \$2.75.

The experiences of a group of Boy Scouts from Wisconsin at the 1953 Scout Jamboree in California. Roger Berry was not of legal age to attend, but because of his exceptional record with his home troop was allowed to go. The story is primarily concerned with his swapping activities, with a few side issues brought in now and again to show that there is more to the Jamboree than swapping. Although much is made of the fact that the Jamboree brings scouts together from all over the world, there is no evidence that any of the Wisconsin boys took advantage of the situation since the only boy outside their own patrols with whom they had any contact was a boy from Texas. In fact they all seemed far more interested in meeting movie stars than in getting acquainted with other scouts. The writing is in no way outstanding and the main value of the book will be for scouts who want to know more about a Jamboree.

NR Kraus, Robert. I, Mouse. Harper, 1958.
K-1 32p. \$1.75.

A mouse who likes people is unappreciated by them until one night when he captures a burglar

single-handed. Thereafter he is treated as a hero and becomes the watchmouse for the family. There is some humor to the incongruity of the situation, but on the whole the story seems forced and not especially childlike.

R Le Grand. How Baseball Began in Brooklyn. Abingdon, 1958. 63p. \$2.

An entertaining and brashly unauthentic account of how baseball was invented. The ten Denbooms brothers were bowling one day and were ambushed by nine young Indians; Pieter threw a bowling ball which hit a war club and bounced back, and so baseball began. A formal game was held to settle a dispute between father and the Indian chief. When the Denbooms (pronounced by the Indians "Dembums") won, they were permitted to keep their farmland. Once it was safe, other settlers came, and the colony was called Breukelen, later changed to Brooklyn—so if baseball hadn't been invented, there would have been no town of Brooklyn. The author's straight-faced explanations of many baseball terms are delightful. For example, little Oscar's pudding-dish was used as a marker, and, because he brought it from home, called home plate.

M Lemmon, Robert Stell. All About Strange Beasts of the Present; illus. by Rudolf Freund. Random House, 1957. 148p. \$1.95.

A hurried look at some of the strange animals inhabiting the world today. The information about each animal is sketchily presented, sometimes omitting facts that make the animal unusual, i.e., the wolverine's habit of using its musk to spoil any food it cannot eat. Some of the information is misleading, as when the author describes flying squirrels as pleasant animals to have in a house, with no mention of their destructive nature. The tone throughout is quite condescending, with occasional self-conscious attempts at humor.

R Love, Katherine Isabel, comp. A Little Laughter; illus. by Walter H. Lorraine. Crowell, 1957. 114p. \$2.50.

A delightful anthology of nonsense verse. The better known humorists—Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, Hilaire Belloc, Ogden Nash, Gelett Burgess, Phyllis McGinley—are represented as well as many who are less well known and several anonymous rhymsters. Walter Lorraine's line drawings capture the fun and humor of the verse, making this an attractive volume for home or library collections. All except twenty-four of the poems are indexed in Brewton. Author, title, and first line indices are included at the end.

Ad Low, Elizabeth. Mouse, Mouse, Go Out K-2 of My House; with pictures by Ronni Solbert. Little, 1958. 47p. \$2.75.

Toby is helping his aunt clean their summer home before the rest of the family arrives; he hopes he can find an animal that will stay and play with him. His aunt evicts the flying squirrel, the bat and the mouse he finds, but accepts the cat and her kittens. Each animal describes itself in a poem: the alternation of prose and verse is rather distracting. Slight story, repetitive illustrations.

Ad MacAlvay, Nora (Tully). Cathie Stuart. 4-6 Viking, 1957. 159p. \$2.50.

Cathie Stuart is a ten-year-old girl, living in the Scottish town of Kelso on the River Tweed, who thinks it would be nice to change her fairly humdrum life for that of a gypsy. At the time of the Fair she has an opportunity to make friends with two gypsy children and to visit their caravan, but in the end she is satisfied with her own life. A rather mild little story, but one that gives a flavor of the Scottish setting, and Cathie seems a very real little girl.

SpC McDonnell, Lois Eddy. Hana's New Home; 2-4 illus. by Dorothy Papy. Friendship Press, 1957. 125p. \$2.50.

Eight-year-old Hana was unhappy at the prospect of leaving her grandparents' farm and moving to the city. She didn't like it when they arrived; the city was crowded and noisy and she knew nobody at school. Drawn into recreational activities by the staff members of a Christian church school, Hana and her brother Taro found friends and felt welcome; eventually her parents were drawn into the circle of church affairs. The picture of urban life in modern Japan is presented in pleasant and simple style, but the book is marred by purposiveness. It is only the church members who are friendly; when there is a fire in the house, no neighbors offer help—only one of the church staff. Best used in church collections for religious education.

Ad MacGregor, Ellen. Mr. Pingle and Mr. Buttonhouse; pictures by Paul Galdone. 2-4 Whittlesey House, 1957. 32p. \$2.

Mr. Pingle decides to pay a visit to his friend Mr. Buttonhouse; at the same time, Mr. Buttonhouse decides that he will surprise Mr. Pingle. One travels by train and the other by boat; when the train stops because of a raised drawbridge, the two men see each other and both are surprised. The story is pleasant and mildly suspenseful, but suspiciously coincidental. The illustrations give the impression of the early 1900's for no reason apparent in the story. Arrange-

ment of the text on the page in two instances is confusing.

- R Manton, Jo. A Portrait of Bach; illus. 7-9 by Faith Jacques. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 176p. \$2.75.

An excellent biography of Johann Sebastian Bach in which the author has organized the factual material with skill and amplified it with a smooth narrative flow. Of special interest to music lovers, it is appealing enough just as a story to be enjoyed by all readers. A balanced picture of Bach emerges: the child, the man, the father, and the musician. The background of history and of church-centered music is clearly defined; as absorbing as Bach's life is the musical communion of the whole Bach family.

- NR Marks, Mickey Klar. Fine Eggs and Fancy Chickens; illus. by Jo 2-4 Polseno. Holt, 1956. 96p. \$2.50.

The story of Biffy and Peg Peters as they start to replenish the animal supply of their new home at Old Mill Farm by raising a brood of bantam chickens which they sell for two piglets. They hope the piglets will earn money for a calf, and so on, until the farm is completely stocked. The plot itself is adequate but unfortunately the style is pedestrian and the conversations are stilted. The characters have no life or reality. Young children would be unable to read the text because of the word difficulty and page layout and older children would not find the style or subject matter of much interest.

- Ad Montgomery, Rutherford George. Mister Jim; illus. by Paul Galdone. 7-9 World, 1957. 219p. \$2.75.

Mister Jim was a grizzly bear that had been reared by an Indian trapper and was more of a pet than a wild animal. The story takes Mister Jim through one period of his life as a full grown bear, when he is temporarily separated from his Indian friend, finds a mate who is subsequently killed for sheep stealing, is reunited with his friend and saves him from a charge of attempted murder. The writing is not especially outstanding, and the bear often borders on being personified. However, the author's feeling for the wild country of the Rockies and his understanding of animals come through to make a story that will have appeal for boys who like this type of fiction.

- M Moore, Beatrix T. Swim for It, Bridget!; 3-5 illus. by E. Harper Johnson. Morrow, 1958. 80p. \$2.50.

Tim told his neighbor, Duck Dan, that he had named his new puppy Bridget: she was an Irish

water spaniel. Dan, when he saw Bridget, was sure that she could be trained to swim. Eager to beat a long-standing record swim by another dog, Tim and Duck Dan embarked on a rigorous training program. When the great day came, Bridget swam past the marker and broke the record. Johnson's illustrations surpass the mediocre text in both appeal and technique. Some of the attitudes and the dialogue through which they are expressed are exemplified: "'Tarnation!' interrupted Duck Dan. 'Your mammy is as good a woman as any, I reckon. But the hull bunch of women is a-feard and a-scared of something all of the time. I get plumb disgusted with them.'"

- NR Northcott, Cecil. Forest Doctor; The 4-6 Story of Albert Schweitzer. Roy, 1957. 93p. (Stories of Faith and Fame). \$1.50.

A poorly bound and poorly written book. The style is artificial and the action repetitive. For example, four quite similar incidents are cited to show that Schweitzer, in his boyhood, was compassionate. This pattern is used repeatedly to emphasize other traits of the biographee. The inferior writing cannot diminish Schweitzer's stature, but sentimentality does nothing to augment it.

- R Norton, Mary. Bed-Knob and Broomstick; illus. by Erik Blegvad. 4-6 Harcourt, 1957. 189p. \$3.

Combines two previously published books, The Magic Bed-Knob and its sequel, Bonfires and Broomsticks. In the first book, Carey, Charles, and Paul Wilson, visiting their aunt one summer, meet the very proper Miss Price, who is somewhat embarrassed when the children discover that she is studying to become a witch. Modest as she is about her prowess, Miss Price does succeed in giving to a bed-knob the power of transporting passengers. After some exciting adventures, the children return to London. Two years and one book later, they read an ad inserted by Miss Price for summer boarders. They convince Mrs. Wilson to send them to Miss Price and are dismayed to find that she has given up witchcraft. Urging one last ploy, they negotiate a trip to the past; from the 17th century they return with a necromancer who eventually takes Miss Price back to his own time as his wife. While there is one unpleasant note in text and illustration of Negroid cannibals, the story has the same quiet humor and calm acceptance of the fantastic as does The Borrowers. Blegvad's illustrations are particularly well-suited to the style.

- NR Palladino, Tony. Once There Was a Gen-

K-1 eral. Watts, 1958. 26p. \$1.50.
The general starts with a few soldiers, horses and guns, and one daisy. He greatly increases his forces, but has no use for them since there are no wars and so disposes of them to enjoy his daisy, which has meanwhile multiplied to an entire field of daisies. The book is too slight to appeal to the child old enough to understand the significance of the general, his military forces and the daisies, and there is little meaning here for younger children.

M Patchett, Mary Osborne Elwyn. The
5-7 Chance of Treasure; illus. by Tom
 Hickey. Bobbs-Merrill, 1957. 220p.
 \$3.

The four Brevitt children are invited to go on a skin-diving expedition with their uncle and an orphaned French cousin. The jacket blurb states, "Scarcely a day passes without a new experience—either unexpectedly funny, startling or dangerous." This plethora of dramatic incidents makes a story that is quite unrealistic. The author has permitted the adult characters to ignore caution or precaution, making possible such an episode as that of a three-year-old child being left alone near a pool of moray eels. The French child is more a caricature than a character. The only redeeming feature of the book is the description of undersea life in Australian waters.

NR Paull, Grace A. Some Day. Abelard-
1-3 Schuman, 1957. 39p. \$2.50.

An introductory look at some of the common changes that may be observed in nature. From bare tree branches to fruit, from seed to flower, from sheep's wool to winter coat, from tadpole to frog, etc. The illustrations are occasionally the sole identification of the object being discussed, and they are not always clear. The picture of the cotton field will be objectionable to many people for its use of stereotypes.

R Pearce, A. Philippa. The Minnow Leads
5-7 to Treasure; illus. by Edward Ardiz-
 zone. World, 1958. 253p. \$3.

When an old canoe was deposited at the garden dock by a spring flood, David Moss christened it the Minnow and set out to find the rightful owner. He turned out to be Adam Codling, a boy somewhat older than David. Adam lived in an old house beside the river and had secret plans to recover the family treasure, lost since the days of the Armada, by paddling about the waterways. Confiding in David the Family Riddle that was the clue to the treasure, Adam made David promise not to tell anyone of their plans. After a great deal of work following false leads, the boys do discover the cached jewels, just in time to save the Codling home from being sold. Al-

though the plot gets a bit tangled, especially at the last, this flaw is compensated for admirably by several virtues. The boys are completely credible in their behavior, conversation and relationships with others. Most of the minor characters are depicted with humor and insight. The mood of long summer days, the lure of the river, the absorption in the hunt are maintained throughout. The author writes with understanding of the private world of boys, and with deftness maintains the suspense in a good adventure tale. Published originally in England under the title The Minnow on the Say.

NR Protheroe, Ruth Hepburn. Beyond the
7-9 Mountains; drawings by Joseph
 Escourido. Abelard-Schuman, 1957.
 240p. \$3.50.

Marguerite Dumas was bitterly unhappy over her father's plans to leave the small, isolated village of L'Anse des Monts, on the Gaspé Peninsula, where she has lived all her life and move to St. Jerome, where he planned to join his friend Pierre in operating some tourist cabins. Marguerite's rebellion reached a point where she finally ran away and returned to her grandparents in L'Anse, but her growing friendship with Philippe, a boy from St. Jerome, and her final understanding that tourists are just people like her own friends and family, helped her to adjust to the new life. Neither Marguerite's rebellion nor her change in attitude ever quite ring true and the book is further weakened by an overabundance of typographical errors.

NR Rietveld, Jane. To Hide, To Seek. Viking,
7-9 1957. 251p. \$3.

Hollis Baylor, a senior in art school, overcomes her emotional dependence on her father, finds love and becomes a more dedicated artist. The author has attempted to handle this trite theme of conversion maturely, but it is not a really significant story for older girls. The transition period is almost completely ignored, so that the reader has no basis for believing in Hollis' new personality. More serious is the author's introduction of philosophy about art, religion, and Life, which is so artificial and pedantic that the ideas themselves lose effectiveness. All of the characters lecture frequently in long paragraphs, and some of the minor characters seem expressly created for this. The usual junior high audience would probably not be very interested in Hollis and her problems.

NR Robinson, Mabel Louise. Riley Goes to
4-6 Obedience School; illus. by Leonard
 Shortall. Random House, 1956. 80p.
 \$2.50.

The story of a personified dog that is sent to

obedience school by a man whose pants the dog has torn. At the school, Riley does nothing he did not mean to do anyway, and usually creates more disturbance than all the other dogs together. Riley's personification extends only to the point of being able to talk to his owner, the doctor, and he give him advice on how to drive a car and how to treat sick children. An attempt to be humorous that ends by being coy and stereotyped.

R Rowland, Florence Wightman. Juddie;
4-6 illus. by Charles Geer. Oxford,
1958. 158p. \$3.

A moving story about an eleven-year-old boy who has not been able to go to school, but accepts the fact that he is needed on the farm although he longs to be able to read and write. Juddie's family lives in the Canadian mountains; he is the only child and cannot be spared. A sister is born and Juddie is needed even more to help his mother. With each of the minor crises recurrent in farm life, it is clear that the boy must stay at home. The author has the discretion to solve the problem by letting a volunteer teacher come to the pupil; a sprained ankle keeps a pilot in Juddie's home. The pictures of family unity, of Juddie's love for the baby, and of the boy's acceptance of responsibility, are drawn with conviction and consistency.

Ad Rowland, John. The Penicillin Man;
8-10 The Story of Sir Alexander Fleming.
Roy, 1957. 155p. \$2.75.

The life story of Alexander Fleming is told in a rather stiff and repetitive style that cannot diminish the impressive story of a great man and a great discovery. The book is also useful in giving an accurate picture of the slow development and cooperative endeavor needed in research projects. The sedate style and the frequent use of British spellings and expressions limit the readability of this biography.

NR Rydberg, Louise Hampton. Marni.
7-9 Longmans, 1957. 181p. \$2.75.

Marni Montgomery, in her second year of junior college, worries occasionally because she does not know what she wants to make of her life. She drifts through school, concentrating only when a course interests her, drifts through her relationships with her family and friends and finally falls in love with a young dentist. She thereupon decides to train as a dental assistant and concentrates on her course in accounting so that she will be able to help him when he sets up his own office. Slick, insubstantial writing, with typed characters and virtually no plot.

Ad Sanger, Marjory Bartlett. The Bird
4-6 Watchers; illus. by Christine Price.
Dutton, 1957. 164p. \$2.75.

Aunt Laura's Christmas present to Brian and Jenny is a disappointment. Who wants a bird feeder? As soon as the first bird comes, however, the children are fascinated and become devoted bird watchers. From then on, birds are the exclusive interest of both, and the concentration of interest makes an unconvincing story. The material might have been better presented without fictionalization since the story prevents a logical organization of the factual matter. Notes for bird watchers, and lists of books and records at the back of the book are useful, but there is no index and no illustrations that are adequate for the purpose of identification of birds. Not as good a bird guide as Williamson's The First Book of Birds (Watts, 1951).

NR Scott, James Maurice. White Magic;
6-8 illus. by Joan Kiddell-Monroe. Holt,
1957. 191p. \$3.

A British anthropologist takes his two children, Molly and Jon, with him on an expedition to a remote section of Greenland where he hopes to find remains of a lost Viking colony. The entire expedition shows an appalling and highly unrealistic lack of preparation and decisions are made on the spur of the moment without any consideration for the safety of the members of the expedition or of the Eskimos who live in the area. In fact, at one point the professor abandons his own supplies and takes food from the trading store even though he knows that by his doing so the trader and the Eskimos will face serious privations. There is a condescending attitude toward the Eskimos expressed throughout and the professor represents quite negative values in that his concern is wholly with the money he will earn on the expedition rather than with the importance of his findings.

R Scott, Judith Unger. Memo for Marriage;
9-12 illus. by Ruth K. Macrae. Macrae,
1957. 238p. \$2.95.

A handbook for high school girls on the problems of engagement and marriage, offering both preventive and curative advice. The book will help develop self-understanding through its discussions of such topics as the influence of parents and friends on personality, the qualities comprising emotional maturity, the determination of goals and values, and the realistic judgment of boyfriends. It will also help in practical ways, as the author gives good suggestions for learning to be a good housekeeper, handle finances, and manage babies, and for coping with in-laws, conflicting interests, and so on. The book would be especially useful for guidance or home economics

classes, since it covers a great variety of topics and would be a good starting point for discussion. On the individual level, it is an excellent introduction to serious thinking about marriage.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). See Through the Lake; pictures by Winifred Lubell. Harper, 1958. 48p. \$2.50.

An informative and interesting presentation of plant and animal life in a lake, profusely illustrated with drawings and diagrams. The variations in plants, animals, insects, fish, etc. at various water levels are described; the life cycle and interdependence of the underwater community is shown; the relationship of the lake to the land around it is noted. The illustrations are pleasing in color and help to explain the text. An attractive book that should have a wide range of usefulness.

M Sendak, Jack. Circus Girl; pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1957. 32p. \$2.50.

Flora, who had lived all her life with the circus, was curious to know what other people were like. No one in the circus could help her, so she went to the village to find out. At first she observed the people from a tight rope high above the streets, but only when she came down to street level did she begin to realize that people are alike wherever they live and work. Too adult in concept and treatment to have much to offer children.

NR Seth, Ronald. The Spy and the Atom Gun; 7-9 Introducing Captain Geoffrey Martel of the British Secret Service. Ariel, 1958. 152p. \$2.75.

A light-weight atomic gun has been developed by scientists in the resistance movement of the small country of Gallonia, behind the Iron Curtain. A British agent is sent into the country to smuggle the plans and the gun out. There is no beautiful female spy, but every other wellworn device is employed: sadistic police, leaps off speeding trains, hair-breadth escapes, sliding panels, underground passageways. There is never a dull moment, unfortunately.

Ad Sevrey, O. Irene. The First Book of the Earth; pictures by Mildren Waltrip. Watts, 1958. 63p. \$1.95.

A brief introduction to geology, setting forth some of the theories about the formation of the earth and describing in some detail the kinds of rocks that exist and how they are formed, the effects of wind and soil erosion on rock formations, and the causes of such phenomena as earthquakes and volcanoes. Because of the

brevity of the treatment the book will need to be used to supplement more detailed books on the same subject. The difficulty of the text and the technicality of the illustrations vary throughout the book.

R Shaler, Eleanor. Gaunt's Daughter. 7-9 Viking, 1957. 246p. \$3.

Cordelia Lovell had grown up despising her famous actor-father, Richard Gaunt, for having deserted her and her mother when she was a baby. She even assumed her mother's maiden name, and refused to use her father's reputation in any way to promote her own acting career. When people and circumstances combined to bring the two together, Dee went through a stormy period of hero worship before coming to a point where she could objectively appreciate her father's ability as an actor and at the same time recognize his weakness as a completely self-centered person. Well-drawn characterizations and an interesting picture of the modern theater world.

M Sherburne, Zoa. Princess in Denim. 7-9 Morrow, 1958. 248p. \$2.95.

When Steve entered a photograph of Eden in the local beauty contest, he was sure she'd win and proud when she did. Eden's peaceful life—keeping house for her father on an Oregon ranch—was completely disrupted. The combination of limelight and of infatuation for Johnny, the publicity man, made Eden decide to go on to the state beauty contest. This time she did not win, and went home disillusioned and unhappy. The style is banal and the characters overdrawn; there are two mitigating aspects: one is the good relationship between Eden and her father, the other is the realistic ending.

R Silverman, Mel. Ciri-biri-bin. World, 1-3 1957. 40p. \$2.50.

Mario is a small Italian boy, living in New York City, who spends his days singing. His ambition to sing from the bandstand during the Feast of San Gennaro is unfulfilled after he becomes frightened during an audition and cannot make a sound. However, with the help of a friendly hurdy-gurdy man he does get his chance to sing—not from the bandstand, but beside it. The colorful pictures reflect the gaiety of an Italian neighborhood at festival time and the story will appeal to all small boys who dream of moments of glory.

Ad Slobodkin, Louis. Thank You—You're Welcome. Vanguard, 1957. 32p. \$2.75.

Jimmy is a most polite little boy who always says "Thank you." He is sad because other

people say "You're welcome" to him and he wants to say that too. His mother explains that if he does something kind, he will be thanked and may then say "You're welcome." Jimmy happily explores the new possibility. Humor in both text and illustrations keep the moral from being burdensome. The rhymed text (four lines to a page) is rather sing-song in spots.

NR Smiley, Virginia Kester. The Buzzing Bees; illus. by Bob Hodgell. Abelard-Schuman, 1957. 74p. \$2.50.

Eight-year-old Johnny Trent did not look forward with much pleasure to the prospect of spending his summer vacation with his Uncle Pete and Aunt Em. He liked the country but was afraid of the bees that his uncle cultivated. There is little actual information about beekeeping given, and the manner in which Johnny overcomes his fear seems quite far-fetched. The style is too difficult and there is too much text on a page for the book to be used as independent reading below the fourth grade. The illustrations are most unattractive.

M Steiner, Charlotte. Karoleena. Doubleday, 1957. 90p. \$2.75.

Karoleena just couldn't stay out of trouble. When she went marketing with her mother, she loosened the bonds on chickens that were for sale and they escaped. To train her puppy to close the door, she used all the sugar in the house, which was not appreciated by the cook. Even on her vacation at the spa, when Karoleena gave a mud bath like the one she'd had to a dog, the dog's owner was most annoyed. Karoleena was worried about Freeda, her governess; would she love such a naughty girl? For the young reader who has good intentions but gets into trouble, it will no doubt be reassuring to find that Freeda does indeed realize that there was no malice aforesight and loves her little charge. A pleasant little story, though not outstanding. The aura of wealth (the family has a maid and a governess) is mitigated to some extent by the fact that the background is European and that the time is "long ago."

R Streatfeild, Noel. Dancing Shoes; illus. by Richard Floethe. Random House, 1958. 273p. \$2.95.

When Rachel and Hilary Lennox come to live with their aunt after their mother's death, Rachel is determined that Hilary shall continue her classical ballet studies. Their aunt, however, runs a school which trains children for the musical comedy stage, and everyone misunderstands Rachel's objections to the kind of dancing lessons Hilary must take there. Rachel herself is not good at any of the stage

work, but becomes very sensitive to drama through reading plays with her classroom teacher. In the end, she realizes that Hilary must follow her own inclinations (to have a family when she grows up and not dance at all), and she wins a coveted acting part away from the spoiled cousin, Dulcie. The spirited writing, lively characterizations, realistic background, and believable plot makes this a thoroughly enjoyable story in the Streatfeild tradition.

R Terkel, Louis [Studs]. Giants of Jazz; 7-12 sketches by Robert Galster. Crowell, 1957. 215p. \$3.

Brief biographies of twelve jazz artists, told in an informal and lively style. Emphasis is on the individual's contribution to the development of jazz: the evolution of a particular style and the interaction of styles and personalities. Written by a jazz lover, this is a book for fans rather than for the casual reader. The occasional clichés won't matter to such special readers, nor will they be confused by the many names of other performers and titles.

NR Thompson, Harlan. Spook the Mustang. 7-9 Doubleday, 1956. 192p. \$2.50.

After a long, hard trip, Dave Barry finally got his parents to his grandfather's ranch only to find that Grandy and the ranch animals had disappeared and only Lupe, the Mexican ranch hand was on duty. Dave was sure that his grandfather was still alive and was determined to find the missing cattle and save the ranch from being sold to settle the mortgage that was due. Dave also saved Spook, a black colt, from death and tried to train the horse so that he would be able to ride it in the Salinas rodeo in a few years. Together with his wages earned by working for a neighbor, winning the rodeo would give him enough prize money to save the ranch. Spook was wing-shy and hard to control, but ultimately Dave did win the contest and was able to save the ranch. He also found his grandfather and brought him back to the ranch. A mediocre story, written in a pedestrian style with stilted conversations. Although plagued by bad luck, Dave ultimately wins out, but the contrast between the pessimistic Lupe and Dave's optimistic, ever-trusting mother smacks too highly of moral-preaching.

NR Tompkins, Jane. The Reindeer Twins; 2-4 illus. by Kurt Wiese. Lippincott, 1956. 125p. \$2.65

The story of the first year of life of a pair of reindeer twins, including their education, capture by Eskimos, escape, struggle to survive and final return to their herd. The material is interesting, but the tone is coy and the animals

heavily personified. Too condescending for general interest.

R Y Tunis, Edwin. Colonial Living. World, 8- 1957. 157p. \$4.95.

A comprehensive portrayal of the details of life in the United States in the 17th and 18th centuries. Over 200 detailed drawings supplement and amplify the text. Among the aspects of colonial life described in the book are food and dress, architecture and industries, tools and utensils, communications and customs. An excellent reference book; the smooth writing and occasional bits of humor provide reading that is enjoyable as well as informative.

Ad Tunis, John Roberts. Schoolboy Johnson. 7-9 Morrow, 1958. 192p. \$2.95.

Schoolboy is a good pitcher but an immature person. His attainment of adult values and of the desire to cooperate is described against the background of a not-unusual Tunis plot: good baseball plus character development equals a win. The author has not enhanced the diamond-out-of-the-rough effect by such phases as "Though he was a rookie ballplayer somewhere deep inside him was the soul of a poet." Colloquial dialogue and human relations are accurate, but the counterplot (an older player accepting his role as a teacher) at times overshadows the main action and causes confusion.

R K-1 Ungerer, Tomi. The Mellops Go Diving for Treasure. Harper, 1957. 32p. \$2.75.

The Mellops are a family of urbane French pigs whose adventures take them to many unlikely places. This time they go deep sea diving, suffer shipwreck and find buried treasure. Much of the treasure goes for taxes, but the Mellops are happy to settle for cake and ice cream. There is a freshness and originality to the drawings that should give them appeal to children and adults alike.

Ad 7-9 Vance, Marguerite. Flight of the Wildling; Elizabeth of Austria; illus. by J. L. Pellicer. Dutton, 1957. 156p. \$2.95.

Fictionalized biography of Elizabeth of Austria, taking her from the age of sixteen to the end of her life. Her story is one to appeal to any teenage readers who like court intrigue and romance. Its appeal is somewhat lessened by the rather awkward writing, and the pictures fail completely to do justice to Elizabeth's beauty or Franz Joseph's good looks as they are described in the text. An interesting picture of the Austrian court during the late nineteenth century.

NR 4-6 Van Stockum, Hilda. King Oberon's Forest; illus. by Brigid Marlin. Viking, 1957. 151p. \$2.75.

A rather feeble attempt at fantasy that never quite comes off. The story involves three unpleasant dwarfs who will have nothing to do with their neighbors and who are left with a fairy baby one Hallowe'en night. The baby, Felix, teaches them a lesson in neighborliness before he leaves to join King Oberon and fight the dragon who threatens the forest. In addition to the somewhat confused writing, the illustrations further spoil the illusion by showing the characters wholly out of proportion to their size as indicated in the text.

NR 2-4 Verral, Charles Spain. Lassie and the Daring Rescue; pictures by E. Joseph Dreany. Simon and Schuster, 1957. 24p. (Little Golden Books). 25¢

The "daring" rescue occurs when a colt runs away and Lassie stops it before it can go over the edge of a cliff. A slight story, poorly told.

NR 6-8 Wilkins, Hugh Percival. Clouds, Rings and Crocodiles; By Spaceship Round the Planets; illus. by Anne Marie Jauss. Little, 1956. 148p. \$3.

An attempt to present information about the solar system and the stars, in which the author's literary device, an imaginary space-ship journey, interferes seriously with the information. After a discussion of space travel in general, the author takes off to the planets and a few of the nearer stars, and then returns to our sun and moon. Though the book is not fictionalized, the treatment is too casual with facts to be very useful. For example, in order to describe the sun, the author takes his ship through the corona—and emerges only slightly singed. The travelers walk about on Venus without space-suits, though the author give no evidence contrary to the generally accepted idea the Venus' atmosphere is carbon dioxide. In other cases, he is forced to ignore facts to keep up the literary device, as when he brushes off the difficulties of a trip to the stars with a vague and inconsistent reference to the theory of relativity. This sort of contriving with the facts is just frequent enough to make the book misleading and confusing as an introduction to the subject, and to annoy those readers who are well-enough informed to catch the errors and inconsistencies with fact. The information that is given is not any better than that presented in other books on the same subject.

R W 3-5 Willis, Robert J. Molly's Hannibal; illus. by Ursula Koering. Follett,

1957. 128p. \$2.75.

Molly Flynn lived on an Erie Canal houseboat in the 1870's. The only girl driver on the canal, Molly was often teased and called "Johnny" because she wore pants when she rode her beloved mule, Hannibal, while he pulled the tow-line. Her secret desire was quite feminine, however: she wanted to own the beautiful golden-haired doll she had seen in Watertown. When Hannibal fell sick, Molly gave the veterinarian her precious doll-money. He was so touched by the sacrifice that he bought from Molly a sweater she was knitting, claiming that it was exactly what his own little daughter wanted. With the money Molly was able to buy the doll; she also was able to understand how one can give up a cherished goal to help others, and thus had her first perception of what her mother had given up to live in the way her husband's business demanded. The description of life on the canal is very well done; details are incorporated smoothly so that the informational aspect does not obtrude. Molly and her family are drawn with warmth and humor.

R Wilson, Hazel (Hutchins). The Little
6-8 Marquise: Madame Lafayette; illus.
by Paul A. Sagsoorian. Knopf, 1957.
241p. \$3.

A biography of Adrienne d'Ayen, wed at the age of fourteen to the Marquis de Lafayette, and a sympathetic portrayal of a courageous woman. Adrienne, convinced of the rightness of her husband's views, waited with patience Lafayette's return from America; she defended with vigor his role in the French Revolution; she braved many dangers to join him in an Austrian prison. The book gives an interesting view of the French Revolution and of Lafayette's life after his return from America, a period little noted in biographies written about him for children.

SpC Wise, William. Silversmith of Old New
4-6 York: Myer Myers; illus. by Leonard
Everett Fisher. Farrar, 1958. 180p.
(Covenant Books). \$2.95.

Myer Myers was the son of Jewish immigrants who had come to the colony of New York from Holland. After a period of apprenticeship, he had become an excellent silversmith. During the Revolution, Myer risked his life carrying ammunition in British-held territory; after the war, he was a leader of the Jewish community in New York. The writing is rather monotonous. Background material about New York and about the war is minimal; the emphasis is on the affairs of the Jewish community of New York and its role in the war, so that the book is more suitable for a specialized collection than for general use.

Ad Yates, Raymond Francis. Faster and
7-9 Faster; The Story of Speed. Harper,
1956. 146p. \$2.50.

A book devoted to facts and figures on various types of speed. The individual chapters, covering such topics as: The Speed of Humans, Speed among the Animals, Speed on Two Wheels, The Stars in Their Courses, etc., could be used for reference purposes. However, the most useful and interesting part of the book is the section of four chapters which discuss the problems, theory and progress of work in supersonic speeds. Guided missiles and other high-speed craft, the heat barrier, the sound barrier, designing a "Jet-Age Man," and so on, are discussed briefly but completely enough to serve as a good introduction to the subject. Unfortunately there is no index, but the organization is such that the reader can probably find the topics he is interested in through the table of contents.

R Young, Ella. The Unicorn with Silver
4-6 Shoes; illus. by Robert Lawson.
Longmans, 1957. 215p. \$3.50.

R Young, Ella. The Wondersmith and His
5-7 Son; A Tale from the Golden Child-
hood of the World; illus. by Boris
Artzybasheff. Longmans, 1957.
190p. \$3.

Re-issues of two favorite volumes of Irish folk tales that have been out of print and will be welcomed back by storytellers and young readers alike.

Ad Zim, Herbert Spencer and Burnett, R.
6-12 Will. Photography; The Amateur's
Guide to Better Pictures; illus.
and diagrams by Herschel Wartik
and Harry McNaught. Simon and
Schuster, 1956. 160p. (A Golden
Handbook). \$1.95.

A pocket-book sized, how-to book on photography for the amateur. There is information and advice on every conceivable phase of amateur photography, from selecting cameras to setting up a home dark-room. However, the real novice will find the book difficult to use because of its almost haphazard organization. For example, the subject of lighting is treated in at least four different places. The authors emphasize throughout the importance of choosing and using properly the subject matter of pictures, but there is no complete discussion of these problems. Amateur photographers who are ready for using filter tables, focusing tables, cameras with many accessories, flood-lighting, etc., will find the book helpful. For the beginner, Freeman's Fun with Your Camera (Random House, 1955) or Gottlieb's Photography with Basic Cameras (Knopf, 1953) will be more useful titles.